
Bylaws of Local Greater New York, Communist Party of America

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Article I — Name.

The name of the organization shall be “Local Greater New York, Communist Party of America.”

Article II — Organization.

Local Greater New York shall be composed of all branches of the Communist Party within the boroughs of New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, and Yonkers.

Article III — Management.

Section 1. The affairs of the local shall be conducted by the City Central Committee and by the officers and committees elected by the City Central Committee.

Section 2. The officers of the local shall be: an Executive Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. No member shall hold more than one of these offices.

Section 3. All acts of officers and committees shall be binding and conclusive, unless rescinded by the City Central Committee, and all acts of the City Central Committee shall be binding and conclusive, unless rescinded by the General Membership meeting.

Article IV — City Central Committee.

Section 1. The City Central Committee shall be composed of delegates from the various branches of Local Greater New York.

Section 2. The basis of representation shall be as follows: One delegate for every branch, and one delegate for every 50 members or major fraction thereof,

in good standing. The number of delegates shall be determined by the number of dues stamps bought by the branch during the 6 months prior to the months of November and May before the election.

Section 3. The delegates to the City Central Committee shall be elected at the second regular meeting of the branches in the months of December and June, and their term shall be for 6 months, unless withdrawn as hereafter provided.

Section 4. Delegates to the City Central Committee who have absented themselves without excuse from 2 consecutive meetings shall thereby automatically forfeit their seats in the City Central Committee and branches shall be requested to elect other delegates.

Section 5. The City Central Committee shall elect an Executive Secretary who shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and Executive Committee of 11, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, all of whom shall serve for 6 months until their successors are elected.

Section 6. Nominations are to be made at the first meetings of the City Central Committee in January and July, and elections at the first meetings thereafter. Additional nominations may be made on the date of election.

Section 7. The officers and members of committee of Local Greater New York, if not delegates, shall have a voice but no vote in the City Central Committee.

Article V — Duties of the City Central Committee.

Section 1. The City Central Committee shall meet at least twice a month. It shall:

(a) Elect the officers of the local and committees

as hereinbefore mentioned.

(b) Receive reports from officers and committees and act on such reports.

(c) Receive instructions from branches of the local in writing, through their respective delegates.

(d) Carry out the decisions of general membership meetings of Local Greater New York.

(e) Enforce the attendance of delegates.

(f) Shall order general membership meetings of all members to be called in January, April, July, and October, and whenever it shall deem such meetings necessary.

(g) Perform such other functions not inconsistent with these bylaws as may be required in furtherance of Communist propaganda.

Order of Business.

Section 2. The meetings of the City Central Committee shall be opened by the Executive Secretary or in his absence by the Recording Secretary or any other officer of the local. The business of the City Central Committee shall be transacted in the following order:

Election of chairman and vice-chairman.

Reading of minutes.

Communications.

Reports of special committees.

Reports of executive officers.

Roll call and report of branches.

Unfinished business.

New business.

Good and welfare.

Adjournment.

Roberts' rules of order shall govern the proceedings of the City Central Committee in so far as special rules are not provided.

Article VI — The Executive Committee.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of 11 members elected by the City Central Committee. This committee shall subdivide itself into the following departments:

Organization and propaganda (5); Education (3); Press and literature (3).

Vacancies are to be filled by the City Central

Committee.

Section 2. No member shall be eligible to the Executive Committee who has not been a member of the Party in good standing continuously for at least 1 year, and who has not identified himself with the Party by active participation in its work.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall:

(a) Meet at least once a week, act as a campaign committee, carry out all instructions of the City Central Committee, and appoint such committees as may be necessary.

(b) Prescribe a uniform system of bookkeeping for all branches.

(c) Receive and pass upon all applications for membership.

(d) Investigate disputes between branches of the local.

(e) Pass upon the formation of new branches or changes in the present divisions of the local.

(f) Pass upon all candidates for political offices within the counties of New York, and in case of objection to any candidate nominated, refer such objection to the City Central Committee.

(g) Submit to a general vote all propositions referred to Local Greater New York by the national, state or district committees.

(h) Pass upon all credentials of delegates to the Central Committee, as soon as they are presented, and report thereon to the Central Committee.

(i) Provide for the raising of funds.

(j) Call mass meetings and arrange demonstrations whenever it may consider such meetings and demonstrations necessary.

(k) Supervise the work of all branches of the local and of the Executive Secretary.

(l) Shall hire all necessary organization help.

(m) Report to the Central Committee on its work.

Section 4. Sub-committee on Organization and Propaganda.

This sub-committee shall consist of 5 members of the Executive Committee elected by the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be the Executive Secretary. It shall:

(a) Keep a correct record of the names, addresses, dates of admission, occupation, and labor union affiliation of all members of the local.

(b) Supervise the work of organization of the local and the branches.

(c) See to it that all members of the Party who allow their membership to lapse be induced to resume active work and membership within the Party.

(d) Shall call meetings of the organizers of branches whenever necessary.

(e) Supervise the propaganda work of the local and the branches.

(f) Recommend the printing of popular Communist literature.

(g) Supervise the distribution of literature and open-air meetings.

(h) Report to the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Sub-committee on Education.

This sub-committee shall consist of 3 members of the Executive Committee, elected by the Executive Committee. It shall:

(a) Supervise the educational work of the local and the branches.

(b) conduct lecture courses on Communism among members of the Party, and classes for the training of Communist speakers.

(c) Pass upon all teachers and speakers.

(d) Organize Communist Sunday Schools in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution.

(e) Take charge of propaganda in the shops, factories, and in unions.

(f) Report to the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Sub-committee on Press and Literature.

This sub-committee shall consist of 3 members of the Executive Committee, elected by the Executive Committee. It shall:

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Article VII — Executive Secretary.

Section 1. The Executive Secretary shall be elected by the City Central Committee. He shall:

(a) Devote his entire time to the work of the local.

(b) Act as corresponding secretary of the local.

(c) Act as campaign secretary during all campaigns of the local.

(d) Call special meetings of the City Central

Committee and Executive Committee whenever he deems it necessary and whenever requested by one-third of the delegates to the City Central Committee.

(e) Be a member ex-officio of all committees of the local.

(f) In every way assist the branches of the work of propaganda and organization.

(g) Keep a correct record of the names, addresses, dates of admission, occupations, and labor union affiliations of all members of the local.

(h) Have charge of the seal, office, books, and other property belonging to the local.

(i) Prepare and furnish to branches all supplies ordered by the City Central Committee.

(j) Keep correct account of the income and disbursements of the local.

(k) Attend to all bookkeeping and all other matters of business and routine of the local.

(l) Submit all bills against the local to the Executive Committee.

(m) Render a report every month of the financial condition of the local to the Executive Committee, which shall also be sent out to the branches.

(n) Buy dues stamps from the State Committee for the local and sell the same to the branches for cash only, at such rates as fixed by the national constitution. He shall also have charge of and sell all assessment stamps, tickets, and subscription lists.

(o) Supply the Executive Committee of the local every 6 months and whenever new delegates are elected with a membership report and an account of the dues stamps bought by every branch during the preceding 6 months.

(p) Receive applications for membership and collect the initiation fees.

(q) Prepare semi-annual reports of the work of propaganda, education, organization, and the financial affairs of the local.

(r) Be responsible to the Executive Committee, and he shall report to the City Central Committee for the Executive Committee.

(s) Turn over at the end of his term of office to his successor in office all books, funds, and other property of the local in his possession.

(t) Be the editor of the Party News column of the local paper.

Section 2. All funds to be received by the Execu-

tive Secretary shall be deposited in a bank, to be approved by the Executive Committee. All moneys shall be paid out by check to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Executive Secretary.

Section 3. The Executive Secretary must be a member in good standing of the Party for at least 2 consecutive years.

Article VIII — Treasurer.

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be elected by the City Central Committee for a term of 6 months. He shall:

(a) Have the custody of the funds and supervise the accounts of the income and expenditures of the local, and sign all checks or bills approved by the Executive Committee when countersigned by the Executive Secretary.

(b) Prepare semi-annually a report of receipts and disbursements.

(c) Turn over at the end of his term of office to his successor in office all funds and other property of the local in his possession.

(d) Further provided that one month before the expiration of the term of the Treasurer and Executive Secretary that a committee of 3 be appointed to go over the books and report to the City Central Committee.

Article IX — Recording Secretary.

Section 1. The Recording Secretary shall:

(a) Keep a correct record of the proceedings of the City Central Committee.

(b) Furnish accurate reports of the City Central Committee's meetings to all Communist Party papers of Greater New York and all branches.

Article X — Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 1. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

(a) Provide seats for visiting members in the rear of the meeting hall, separated from those occupied by the delegates.

(b) Require of all delegates and visiting members their membership cards.

(c) Use his efforts in preserving decorum and

good order at the meeting.

(d) He shall take a record of attendance of the delegates and submit same to the Executive Secretary.

Article XI — Branches or Sub-Divisions.

Section 1. The branches or sub-divisions of the local shall be organized on the basis of Assembly Districts. The City Central Committee may combine 2 or more Assembly Districts into 1 branch.

Section 2. (a) Separate language branches may be formed whenever necessary among those members desiring to transact their business in a language other than English, in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution.

(b) But no more than one branch in any one language shall exist in any one Assembly District.

(c) Language branches shall in all party matters cooperate with the English-speaking branches in their territory and shall in every respect be subject to the jurisdiction and decisions of the local in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of every officer of the branch to transmit promptly to his branch all official communications sent him by the Executive Secretary or any officer of the Party for that purpose.

Section 4. A member in good standing of one branch shall have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of another branch, but shall not be allowed to vote.

Article XII — Duties of Branches.

Section 1. The branches shall meet at least once a week.

Section 2. The regular order of business for the branch meetings shall be: Election of chairman; reading of the minutes; proposal of new members; admission of new members; payment of dues; communications; bills; reports of the Executive Committee; reports of the delegates to the City Central Committee; reports of committees and special delegates; unfinished business; roll call of members; new business; good and welfare.

Section 3. The branches may fix such special orders of business as they may find necessary from time to time.

Section 4. The branches shall elect their officers, delegates, and standing committees at the second regular meetings in December and June.

Section 5. Every branch shall elect from its members the following officers, delegates, and such standing committees as the branch may desire to have:

- (a) An Organizer.
- (b) A Financial Secretary.
- (c) A Recording Secretary.
- (d) A Treasurer.
- (e) Delegates to the City Central Committee.
- (f) An Auditing Committee of 3 members, and

at least the following committees: An Executive Committee; a Membership Committee; a Committee on Education; and a Committee on Propaganda.

Section 6. No member can be an officer of a branch who has not been a member of the Party for at least 6 months.

Section 7. The results of every election within a branch shall be sent immediately, and a list of all members in arrears, suspensions, and change of address, at least once a month to the Executive Secretary of the local.

Section 8. The branches shall submit to their membership for a vote all propositions referred by the Executive Committee for a general vote.

Section 9. The branches shall purchase their dues stamps from the Executive Secretary of the local, except Federation branches, which shall be subject to the provisions of the national constitution.

Section 10. It shall submit in the months of July and January a report of its financial condition, such report to contain the names, addresses, and such other information as the printed forms furnished by the Executive Committee may require, and that no delegate to the City Central Committee be seated until such report has been filed.

Section 11. No branch shall be dissolved without the consent of the City Central Committee.

Section 12. In case of the dissolution of any branch, all the property belonging to the same shall be turned over to the Executive Committee of the local.

Executive Committee.

Section 13. (a) The Executive Committee of the branch shall consist of not less than 3 members elected

by the branch.

(b) The Executive Committee shall perform the routine work of the branch, subject to the approval of the branch meetings.

Membership Committee.

Section 14. (a) It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to increase and consolidate the membership, by calling upon delinquent and indifferent members and by holding organization meetings at regular intervals.

(b) It shall elect a permanent secretary who shall supervise the activities of the committee and keep an accurate record of the work done.

Article XIII — Dues.

Section 1. Each applicant for membership shall pay an initiation fee of 50 cents, which shall be receipted for by an initiation stamp furnished by the national organization. The 50 cents shall be divided equally between the branch and the City Central Committee.

Section 2. Each member shall pay 40 cents a month for dues.

Section 3. Branches of language federations shall purchase their dues stamps through their federations.

Section 4. No member shall be considered in good standing unless he purchases the special assessment stamps levied by the national, state, and local organizations. (Federation members must purchase assessment stamps levied by the federations, and shall not be considered in good standing unless they purchase same.)

Section 5. Husband and wife belonging to the same branch may purchase dual stamps, which shall be sold at the same rate as the regular stamps. Special assessment stamps must be bought by both husband and wife.

Section 6. Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strike, sickness, or for similar reasons, shall upon application the financial secretary of the branch be furnished with exempt stamps in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution.

Section 7. Members who are 3 months in arrears in payment of their dues shall cease to be members in

good standing of the Party. Members who are 6 months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls. No member shall pay dues in advance for a period of more than 3 months.

Article XIV — Membership.

Section 1. Any person who accepts the principles and tactics of the Communist Party and the Communist International and agrees to engage actively in the work of the Party, shall be eligible for membership. It is the aim of the Communist Party to have in its ranks only those who engage in work actively.

Section 2. Applicants for membership shall sign an application card reading as follows:

The undersigned, after having read the constitution and program of the Communist Party, declares his adherence to the principles and tactics of the Party, and the Communist International, agrees to submit to the discipline of the Party as stated in its constitution, and pledges himself to engage actively in its work.

Section 3. Every member must join a duly constituted branch of the Party. There shall be no members at large.

Section 4. All application cards must be endorsed by 2 persons who have been members for no less than 3 months.

Section 5. Application for membership shall not be finally acted upon until 2 months after presentation to the branch, and in the meantime applicants must pay initiation fee and dues and shall attend meetings and classes. They shall have a voice but no vote. Provided that this rule shall not apply to charter members of new branches nor to members who make application to newly organized branches during the first month.

Section 6. No person who is a member or supporter of any other political organization shall be admitted to membership.

Section 7. No person who has an entire livelihood from rent, interest, or profit shall be eligible to membership in the Communist Party.

Section 8. No person shall be accepted who enters into the service of the national, state, or local governmental bodies otherwise than through the Civil Service or by legal compulsion. Provided that the civil employment by the government is of a non-political

character.

Section 9. No member of the Communist Party shall contribute articles or editorials of a political or economic character to publications other than those of the Communist Party or parties affiliated with the Third International. (This clause shall not be considered as prohibiting the contribution of articles written from an economic and scientific standpoint to scientific and professional journals. Permission to answer attack upon the Communist Party in the bourgeois press may be granted by the National Central Committee.

Article XV — Charges.

Section 1. Charges against a member of the local must be made in writing and signed either by the individual making the charges, the branch, or the Executive Secretary on behalf of the City Central Committee.

Section 2. All such charges shall be referred immediately to a grievance committee elected for that particular case and report back at the next Central Committee meeting.

Section 3. Charges shall not be debated until the grievance committee has thoroughly investigated the case and reported to the Central Committee.

Section 4. A two-thirds vote of the delegates to the City Central Committee present and voting shall be required to expel a member of the local; a majority shall be sufficient to suspend or censure.

Section 5. A member of the local shall not be suspended for a longer period than 6 months.

Section 6. An expelled member may appeal within 1 month to the State Committee, but he shall not enjoy the privileges of membership pending the appeal.

Article XVI — Balloting.

Section 1. Delegates to the State Convention shall be elected in the following manner:

(a) Nominations shall be made by the Central Committee.

(b) Elections shall be held at a special Central Committee meeting held for that purpose, and branches shall be notified.

Section 2. In case of referendums (subject to the

provisions of the national constitution), the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Central Committee, may order the vote to be taken by individual ballot in which case it shall be so directed in the letter to the subdivision accompanying ballots for use on such referendum.

Article XVII — General Membership Meeting.

Section 1. General membership meetings may be called by the Central Committee whenever it deems it necessary.

Section 2. The Executive Secretary of the local shall notify all good standing members of the local whenever a membership meeting is to be called, stating time, place, and order of the day for which such meeting is called. Such notice to be posted in the Party press.

Section 3. Only members in good standing shall be allowed to vote.

Section 4. General membership meetings shall act only on subjects that are mentioned in the call for such meetings.

Section 5. If a quorum is present, all action of such general membership meetings shall be binding upon the local and its officers and committees.

Section 6. The presence of one-tenth of the membership of the local in good standing shall constitute a quorum. All actions of meetings where there is no quorum shall be referred back to the City Central Committee for final decision.

Section 7. The membership of the local shall be determined from its last semi-annual membership report.

Section 8. If no quorum is present at a general membership meeting, the meeting may nevertheless proceed to discuss the order of business before it, but in that case its decision shall have no binding force and shall be regarded merely in the nature of recommendations.

Article XVIII — Amendments.

Section 1. The by-laws of Local Greater New York shall be in force for a period of 3 months.

Section 2. Between these periods the by-laws may be amended in the following manner: By a two-third vote of the City Central Committee.

Section 3. The periodic revision of the by-laws shall come before the City Central Committee.

Article XIX — Miscellaneous Regulations.

Section 1. None but party members shall speak for or represent the Party.

Section 2. A member ex-officio of a committee shall have a voice but no vote in the sessions of such committee.

Section 3. The officers of Local Greater New York shall be elected for a period of 6 months.

Section 4. Any member of the local in good standing is eligible to all offices and committees of the local, whether he is a delegate to the City Central Committee or not, provided the special requirements of these by-laws are complied with.

Section 5. Any member of a committee, officer, or delegate at any time may be withdrawn by the body that had elected him.

Section 6. No branch or sub-division of the Party shall enter into any compromise or cooperate with any other political organization or party. No candidate of the Party for public office shall accept any nomination or endorsement from any other political organization or party, or permit such endorsement to stand without public notice of protest, otherwise his nomination may be withdrawn at once.

Section 7. Whenever candidates are not placed on the ballot by the Communist Party, the members of the Party shall refrain from voting.

Section 8. In case of conflict between any clauses of these by-laws and the National or State Constitution, it shall be deemed void, and the National or State Constitution shall take precedence.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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